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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The attached new Abstract has been amended from the originally-filed Abstract as follows:

The present invention provides a continuous process for recovering acetone from a waste stream from an acetone purification stage[[5]]. ~~whereas said~~ The waste stream comprises contains mesityl oxide and optionally acetone. The process for recovering acetone includes ~~by~~ separating the waste stream in a separating device at least in one stream containing ~~comprising~~ mesityl oxide and optionally a further stream containing ~~comprising~~ acetone, ~~by then then~~ concentrating mesityl oxide in the mesityl oxide containing stream, and finally ~~by~~ recycling the concentrated mesityl oxide stream to the separating device and bringing it into contact with a basic or acidic aqueous medium or with an acidic catalyst in the presence of water whereby mesityl oxide is at least partially hydrolyzed to acetone.